

I hope I have not hurt  
your sensibilities by what I  
touching the attempt to sneak  
us again into Popery. I meant  
no offence.

Riverside

16 July 77

My dear young friend

Your latest proof  
has just reached me &  
I thank you for it.

You are now, as  
it were in the middle  
of a slough, and I wish  
you well through it &  
with no soil upon you.  
It is dirty work

I am convinced, as  
I dare say you are, that  
some of the Ballads are  
much, very much, older



than the dates they bear  
or seem to belong to from  
the type or appearance.  
They were mere reprints,  
though anterior copies  
may not <sup>yet</sup> have turned up.

I am getting within  
sight of land with my un-  
dertaking—that is to say,  
if I do not include the  
Poems. Shall I make, or  
endeavour to make a  
"Shakespeare" complete or  
confine myself to the  
Plays?—that is the question  
I am now considering &  
discussing, and perhaps  
bothering people about.

My wish is to complete;



but still, whether I do  
or do not add the Poems,  
my edition of the Plays  
will be more complete  
than any other, especially  
as I shall ~~not~~ include  
not only "the Yorkshires"  
Tragedy, but "Mucedorus"!  
The last all disgusting  
rubbish, but Shakespeare's  
one page.

I have fallen upon  
a bad lot of paper &  
the sooner I get through  
it the better - all blots!

Yours most sincerely &  
admiringly

J. Payne Collier  
The Revd  
J. W. Elsworth



*[Faint, illegible handwriting visible through the paper.]*



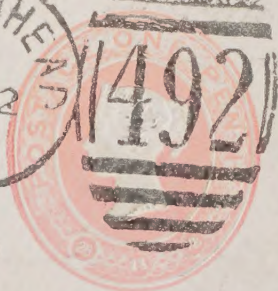
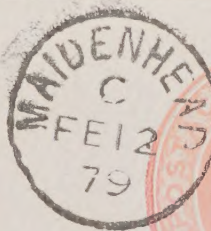
The Revd

J. W. Ebrworth

Molash Rectory

Ashford

Kent





*[Faint, illegible handwriting on a piece of paper, possibly a letter or document, with some visible ink smudges and a vertical crease.]*



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